

NOAA	EMS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STANDARD	Date issues & revised: 10/19/05; R02/25/08; R11/20/08 Version: 1
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## EMS 017 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

*This standard addresses International Standard Organization (ISO) 14001 Section 4.4.7 Emergency Preparedness and Response*

### 1. PURPOSE

To establish and maintain a process for identifying, planning and mitigating for potential emergencies.

### 2. SCOPE

This procedure applies to NOAA line functions that have implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS).

### 3. NOAA LEVEL METHODOLOGY

NOAA facilities address emergency situations through established conventional emergency response plans. Emergency response plans should be written in accordance with the following:

- NOAA Administrative Orders, policies and guidance
- Department of Commerce policies and guidance
- Federal, state, and local legal and other requirements

Through the EMS, facilities are required to establish a process for identifying, planning and mitigating for potential emergencies. Emergency incidents include those that may not be regulated, but may still cause significant environmental impact. In establishing a process for potential emergencies, facilities should review and incorporate components of their significant aspect analysis (see EMS.004 Environmental Impact Identification) as this is where facility environmental impacts are defined.

### 4. FACILITY REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

NOAA facilities should take the following steps to implement and maintain an EMS that conforms to NOAA's EMS requirements and Executive Orders.

1. The Emergency Planning Section of the Compliance Assurance Plan (see EMS.005 Legal and Other Requirements) should be kept up-to-date to ensure adherence to federal, state and local legal and other requirements.
2. Establish, implement, and maintain a procedure to identify potential emergency situations and accidents that can impact the environment and how the facility should respond. This procedure can exist separately in the EMS, or as part of an already established emergency response plan.
3. Respond to actual emergency situations and accidents and prevent or mitigate impacts to the environment.
4. Periodically review and when necessary revise emergency preparedness and response procedures.
5. Periodically test procedures, as required by federal, state or local regulations, or as determined by the facility.